

are circumstances which are of no concern to the reader; and, therefore, as I am not disposed to waste either his time or my own, I cannot prevail upon myself to gratify an idle curiosity, by revealing matters which I have very particular reasons for concealing. It is sufficient to observe, that the aforesaid islands are called *Fortunate or Happy*, because the air is remarkably pure and healthful, the weather always mild and temperate, and the soil extremely fruitful. This being the case, it is not to be wondered at, that the inhabitants are very lively, and together with a hale constitution enjoy a plenty, and, indeed, a superfluity of all the blessings of life: nor is a mild and well-ordered government (which it will not be our purpose to describe at present) to be reckoned the least of the many advantages with which Providence hath favoured them. As to their religion, they all profess themselves to be Christians: and though there are too many hypocrites there as well as in England, yet in general

neral they are more virtuous and more devout than I have observed most persons to be on this side the water. It is also true, that they have different sects and parties there as well as here; but they are guilty of no persecution, rightly judging, that it is the greatest folly and madness for people to rob and imprison, or even murder one another (as hath sometimes happened in your country) because they cannot see and think alike. But there is one circumstance in which they are somewhat particular; and that is, that if they know a man to be in the least covetous or uncharitable, they will not allow him to be a Christian, but will even hoot and hollow after him as he walks the street, crying out, "*There goes an Idolater; there goes an Heathen*;" and indeed their opinion is right enough, tho' for aught I know, they may be a little too rude in their behaviour. Such then are the people from whence I came; and I believe, all things considered, we may venture, as

B 2                      they